(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether considering the heavy passengers traffic on these routes, it is proposed to increase the number of trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) A survey was conducted on the passenger traffic over Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu. The survey revealed that there was traffic potential on this sector and as such there was need for augmentation of passenger services on this sector.

(c) and (d) 6123/6124 Chennai Egmore-Trivandrum Express (6 days a week) *via* Madurai-Nagercoil has been introduced from 30.6.2002. Further 6363/6364 Nizamuddin-Kanniyakumari Express (Weekly) *via* Chennai Egmore-Madurai has been announced in Railway Budget 2002-2003 Speech and will be introduced during the year.

(e) Does not arise.

Construction of Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi rail line

1879. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has taken an initial action for reconstruction of Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi rail line during his visit to Nirmali under Samastipur division of North-eastern railway on 20th June, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the scheme of construction of this important rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The updated survey report for restoration of Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi rail link has been examined and processed for further action. The work can be included in the budget only after receipt of requisite clearances. Meanwhile, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have undertaken model studies considering rail and road bridges side by side.